

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168661

FOR MATLOCK FROM SHINN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. FOR AMBASSADOR: GEMOLOGICAL INSTITUTE'S BUSINESS
OFFICES ARE CLOSED UNTIL JULY 5, WHEN WE WILL GET ON TO
THEM FIRST THING.

2. RE CORRESPONDENTS' CASE. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION
WAS OBTAINED FROM ALFRED FRIENDLY AND IS PASSED ALONG "FYI"
IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT CASE AGAINST PIPER AND
WHITNEY. IN JUNE 1976 FRIENDLY FILED SUIT PER ARTICLE 7
OF THE CIVIL CODE AGAINST THE EDITOR OF LITGAZ, FOR AN
ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN THE MAY 26, 1976, ISSUE OF THE
WEEKLY. THIS WAS THE ARTICLE WHICH ACCUSED FRIENDLY,
GEORGE KRIMSKY, AND CHRIS WREN OF WORKING FOR THE CIA.

THE JUDGE ACCEPTED THE SUIT READILY ENOUGH, BUT THEN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 168661

STALLED. WITNESSES WERE NEVER CALLED AND THE CASE WAS
NEVER DEVELOPED. ACCORDING TO FRIENDLY, THIS WAS NOT JUST
THE FAULT OF THE SOVIETS, BUT ALSO OF NEWSWEEK WHICH GOT
COLD FEET WHEN THE SOVIETS LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE ABOUT TO
BECOME NASTY.

THE JUDGE DID SET A MEETING BETWEEN FRIENDLY AND THE

"RESPONDENT"; I.E., THE LITGAZ EDITOR NAMED BY FRIENDLY IN HIS SUIT. THE RESPONDENT NEVER SHOWED UP AND BY THAT TIME ANOTHER ARTICLE HAD APPEARED WHICH MADE EVEN STRONGER ACCUSATIONS AGAINST FRIENDLY. THE JUDGE ALSO THEN BEGAN TO SAY THAT THE BURDEN WAS ON FRIENDLY TO PROVE HE WAS NOT A CIA AGENT. THEN A THIRD ARTICLE APPEARED WHICH THREATENED CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST FRIENDLY. AT THIS POINT, NEWSWEEK GOT COLD FEET AND ORDERED FRIENDLY OUT OF MOSCOW, AND THE CASE WAS NEVER PURSUED FURTHER. ACCORDING TO FRIENDLY, NEWSWEEK WAS NOT PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT FRIENDLY'S PERSONAL SAFETY, BUT RATHER ABOUT THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE NEWSWEEK MOSCOW OFFICE.

3. MARK ASKS THAT THE AMBASSADOR BE INFORMED THAT NOTHING HAS MATERIALIZED FOR RALPH.

4. TOLYA'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY LAST SATURDAY WAS LARGELY DEVOTED TO THE WHITNEY-PIPER CASE. THE SECRETARY BORE DOWN ON THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE MATTER FOR US AND TOLYA URGED THAT THE MESSAGE TO GROMYKO BE SENT.

5. RE MOSCOW 15008 ON THE NEWS ITEM ABOUT SECRETARY ADAMS' TRIP, WE HAVE TALKED TO ACTING DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FERNSIDES, WHO EXPRESSED DOT'S EMBARRASSMENT THAT REPORT SLIPPED OUT THROUGH A GLITCH. NOTHING HAS BEEN DECIDED
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 168661

ABOUT THE TRIP AND ADAMS IS HOLDING A PLANNING MEETING ON WEDNESDAY. DOT HAS EVERY INTENTION TO COORDINATE CLOSELY THROUGH ICCUSA, WHERE THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT HAS ALREADY BEEN RAISED, AND ADAMS MAY PERSONALLY CONSULT WITH THE SECRETARY. ICCUSA GUIDELINES ARE THAT INTERNAL PLANNING MAY GO FORWARD, AND ALL CLEARANCES SHOULD BE OBTAINED IN DUE COURSE. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE A REPEAT OF THE PRESS LEAK. SHOULD ANY QUESTIONS BE ASKED BY THE PRESS, PLEASE REFER THEM TO THE DEPARTMENT.

6. WE AGREE WITH THE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS OFFERED BY MOSCOW 15170 AND 15364 AND ARE IN THE PROCESS OF CLEARING INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOU HERE. WE WILL TRY TO GET THEM TO YOU BY FRONT CHANNEL CABLE ASAP AFTER THE JULY 4 HOLIDAY, PERMITTING YOU TO CONTEMPLATE ACTION AT THE END OF THIS WEEK, AS REQUESTED IN MOSCOW 15435.

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